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SEAFORD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
SEAFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1937

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Mr. Chairman, Miss Buck and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year 1937.

The death rates are satisfactorily low, the general death rate being just under 10 per 1000, the infantile mortality rate representing 3 deaths only. In addition there is a low rate for both incidence and deaths of the infectious diseases and no deaths from puerperal causes.

The water supply is sufficient and satisfactory. Considerable progress has been made in Housing and Sampling of Milks.

I wish to express my great indebtedness to Mr. J. E. L. Smith for his assiduous co-operation.

Your Obedient Servant,

(signed) W. R. DUNSTAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

B.1. (i) Medical Officer of Health (Part time).
W. R. Dunstan, M.Sc. M.B. D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector also Petroleum Inspector.
John E. L. Smith, R.S.I.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres).....	4,315
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population 1937...	8,925
Number of Inhabited Houses (end 1937) according to Rt.Bk...	2,318
Rateable value.....	£112,794
Sum represented by penny rate.....	£431

The District is mainly residential and is also a Health Resort, there being several Convalescent and Private Nursing Homes. There are 24 large preparatory schools for boys and girls. Except building which has been extensive during the year, there is no staple industry. The smaller houses of the town are occupied by workers for the town's need.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	91	46.	45.	Birth rate per 1000 of estimated population.
Legitimate				
Illegitimate	3	1.	2.	10.53.
Still Births.	5	2.	3.	Rate per 1000 (live and still births) 50.50.
Deaths.	87	47.	40.	Death rate per 1000 of estimated resident population. 9.74.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 & 30 of the Registrar General's Short List).

	Rate per 1000 (live and still) Total Births.	
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis.....	0	0.00
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	0	0.00
Total.....	0	0.00

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age :-

All infants per 1000 live births.....	31.91.
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births.....	21.97.
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births..	333.33

Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	17.
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....	0.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).....	0.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age).....	0.

No special noteworthy causes of sickness or mortality in the area during the year, nor are there any conditions of occupation or environment having a prejudicial effect on health.

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

- (ii) (a) Laboratory facilities No change.
(b) Ambulance facilities.

Owing to the change of the Infectious Diseases Hospital, the Council disposed of their Infectious Disease Ambulance and arrangements were made with the Hospital Authorities for the conveyance of patients to the Hospital from their Home.

- (c) Nursing in the Home..... No change.
(d) Clinics and treatment centres..... No change.
(e) Hospitals.

The Contract with the Newhaven Authority for the reception of Infectious Cases having expired, the Council arranged with the Borough of Hove to receive cases of Infectious Diseases (other than Smallpox) at their Sanatorium.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER. With few exceptions on the outskirts of the town the water supply of the District is maintained by the Newhaven and Seaford Water Company. The Company submits to the Council quarterly reports of analysis. Both in quantity and quality the supply has been entirely satisfactory.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The area is drained by combined sewers to the sea outfall on the East of the town. Two sections are lifted by Schone's Ejectors. Extensions have been made during the year due to the growth of the town and Estate Development.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS. No action.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. Very few houses are not on the Water Carriage System and these are on the outskirts of the District where sewers are yet to be carried.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING. No change.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Visits Re: Smell.....	13.
Nuisances abated.....	2.
Visits Re: Pail Closets.....	19.
Number of Pail Closets removed.....	1.
Visits Re: Full and overflowing cesspools.....	10.
Number of cesspools emptied.....	8.
Piggery Inspections.....	1.
Visits Re: Dustbins.....	104.
Number of Defective Dustbins found.....	12.
Number of Dustbins supplied.....	41.
Number of Smoke Tests.....	14.
Number of Defects found.....	8.
Number of Defects remedied.....	8.
Number of Visits Re: Smoke Tests.....	43.

Visits Re: Dumps.....	27.
Number of Defects found.....	4.
Number of Defects remedied.....	4.
Number of Drainage visits.....	406.
Number of Defects found.....	6.
Number of Defects remedied.....	21.
Number of Defective Fresh Air Inlets found.....	6.
Number of Fresh Air Inlets removed or repaired.....	6.
Number of Visits Re: Fresh Air Inlets.....	20.
Number of Defective Water Closets found.....	4.
Number of Water Closets remedied.....	3.
Number of Visits Re: Water Closets.....	5.
Visits Re: Public Conveniences.....	3.
Number of Defects found.....	1.
Number of Defects remedied.....	1.
Number of Visits Re: Sinks and Additional W.C.'s.....	9.
Number of Defects found.....	1.
Number of Defects remedied.....	1.
Miscellaneous Visits.....	31.
Number of miscellaneous defects found.....	2.
Number of miscellaneous defects remedied.....	2.
Total number of Defects found.....	46.
Total number of Defects remedied.....	91.
Number of Complaints received.....	70.

NOTICES. Served Statutory... 4.
 Informal.... 34.

 Complied Statutory... 3.
 Informal.... 41.

Factories and Workshops.

Number of Factory Inspections.....	6.
Number of Workshop Inspections.....	28.
Number of Notices Served Etc.,.....	0.

Nuisances abated and repair work carried out.

New dustbins supplied.....	41.
Drains unstopped, relaid or repaired.....	21.
Number of Houses repaired Informally.....	38.
Number of rooms disinfected for vermin.....	26.
Number of drain tests made.....	13.
Number of defects remedied.....	8.

(iv) SHOPS.

Number of shops inspected.....	7.
Number of defects found.....	0.
Number of notices etc.,.....	0.



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(v) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Number of Smoke Observations..... 9.

(vi) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

No swimming baths and pools are open to the public. Several of the private schools own swimming baths for their pupils only. No action has been taken.

(vii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No Council property has been found to be infested with bed bugs. 26 rooms have been disinfected in all for vermin. The disinfections are carried out by the Council and in some cases the tenants themselves have assisted in this work.

(viii) SCHOOLS.

Particulars of the Sanitary conditions of the public elementary schools are given in a report of the School Medical Officer of the Administrative County. No schools were closed for infectious diseases by the Medical Officer of Health.

D. HOUSING.

The Council have under construction 72 houses for the future needs of the Housing of the District.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)..... 13.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 420.
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925... 13.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 420.
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... 10.
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..... 45.

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers..... 70.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

- (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs..... 25.
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices
 - (a) By owners..... 26.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners..... Nil.
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..... Nil.
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices
 - (a) By owners..... Nil.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners..... Nil.
- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made..... Nil.
 - (2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders..... Nil.
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made..... Nil.
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit..... Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936. -- Part IV. -- Overcrowding.

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year..... 6.
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein..... 6.
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein..... 41.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year..... Nil.
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year..... 3.
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases..... 19½.
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding..... Nil.
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report..... Nil.

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

The greater supply of the milk is drawn from farms within the District. Premises are kept in a generally clean condition, no notices having to be served. 23 samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination.

PASTEURISED MILK.

Number of licences issued.....	2.
Number of supplementary licences.....	1.
Number of samples taken.....	11.
Number satisfactory.....	8.
Number unsatisfactory.....	3.

Details of the Tests.

Bacterial Count per Millilitre.

	Samples
Less than 30,000 (lowest count 580).....	8.
Between 30,000 and 100,000.....	1.
Between 100,000 and 200,000.....	1.
Over 200,000 (highest count 558,000).....	1.
Number submitted.....	11.
Number satisfactory.....	10.
Number unsatisfactory.....	1.

Phosphatase Test.

Number submitted.....	9.
Number satisfactory.....	7.
Number unsatisfactory.....	2.

TUBERCULIN TESTED.

Number of licences issued.....	2.
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B. Coli in 1/100th Millilitre.

Number submitted.....	1.
Number satisfactory (all three tubes absent).	1.

Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

Number submitted.....	1.
Number satisfactory.....	1.
Number unsatisfactory.....	0.

ACCREDITED.

Number of licences issued.....	2.
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Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

Number submitted.....	2.
Number satisfactory.....	2.
Number unsatisfactory.....	0.

B. Coli in 1/100th Millilitre.

Number submitted.....	2.
All three tubes absent.....	2.

Staphylococci was numerous in one of these samples.

ORDINARY MILKS.

Number of producers.....	5.
Number of cowsheds.....	7.
Number of dairies.....	10.
Number of retailers.....	11.

Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

Number submitted.....	9.
Number satisfactory.....	8.
Number unsatisfactory.....	1.

B. Coli in 1/100th Millilitre.

Number submitted.....	9.
Absent in all three tubes.....	3.
Present in one of the three tubes.....	2.
Present in two of the three tubes.....	0.
Present in all of the three tubes.....	3.
Number of samples satisfactory.....	5.
Number of samples unsatisfactory.....	4.

Streptococci was present in one of the above samples.

Total number of samples submitted.....	23.
Total number satisfactory.....	15.
Total number unsatisfactory.....	8.
Number of inspections of dairies.....	20.
Number of inspections of cowsheds.....	18.
Number of dirt sediment tests taken.....	5.
Number of visits re: milk samples.....	3.
Number of graded milk licences issued.....	8.
Number of letters, licences etc.....	38.
Notices served etc.....	0.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the District and only one registered slaughterhouse. Visits have been made throughout the year to all places where food is offered or exposed for sale.

Number of Bakehouses.	Underground.....	1.
	Factory.....	2.
	Workshop.....	3.

Number of inspections of bakehouses.....	6.
Miscellaneous food visits.....	7.
Notices served etc.,.....	15.

The following food was voluntary surrendered by the owners on condemnation.

14 pounds Dog Fish.
7 pounds Smoked Fillet.
7 pounds Bloaters.
124 pairs Kippers.

(c) ADULTERATION ETC.

Analysis under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, is undertaken by the East Sussex County Council.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

See (c) above.

(e) NUTRITION. Nil.

(f) SHELL FISH. Nil.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

A number of applications for advice on the destruction of rats were received during the year, and 57 visits were made in connection therewith.

National Rat Week was held from the 1st. to the 6th. November 1937. Appropriate posters were obtained and displayed about the town. There have been 96 applications for rat poison.

PETROLEUM ACT, 1928.

21 visits were made during the year respecting the storage of Petroleum Spirit and Carbide of Calcium.

Two new tanks have been constructed during the year.

25 licences were authorised, 23 for storage of Petroleum Spirit and 2 for the storage of Carbide of Calcium.

The total quantities that might be kept under these licences were:- Petroleum Spirit, 44,200 gallons and Carbide of Calcium 2,000 pounds.

Fees amounting to £16.5.0 were received.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no common lodging houses in the District.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of Infectious Diseases.....	14.
Number of enquiries made.....	9.
Number of rooms disinfected after infectious diseases.	5.
No. of rooms disinfected after non-infectious disease.	9.
Number of visits re: disinfecting etc.....	30.

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.	CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.	TOTAL DEATHS.
Scarlet Fever	3.	3.	-
Puerperal Fever	1.	-	-
Pneumonia	3.	-	1.
Diphtheria	4.	4.	-
Paratyphoid	1.	-	-
Erysipelas	1.	-	-
Undulant Fever	1.	-	-
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1.	-	-

Analysis of Infectious Diseases notified and
arranged in age groups.

DISEASE	Under 1 Year	1 2	2 3	3 4	4 5	5 10	10 15	15 20	20 35	35 45	45 65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Undulant Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Anterior Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

3. (a) Cancer. No observations.
- (b) Blindness. No action.
- (c) Tuberculosis. Nil.

New cases of Mortality during the Year.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
15.	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
25.	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-
35.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
45.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65and over.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.	7	1	4	2	-	2	-	-

Factory and Workshop Act.
Table required by Home Office.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections, written notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.	
Factories (including) Factory laundries).)	6.	Nil.	Nil.
Workshops (including) Workshop laundries).)	28.	Nil.	Nil.
Workshops other than) Outworkers premises).)			
TOTAL.	34.	Nil.	Nil.

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

	Number of Defects			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insptr.	No. of Prosec.
<u>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.</u> Want of cleanliness. Want of ventilation. Overcrowding. Want of drainage to floors. Sanitary (insufficient accommodation) (unsuitable or defective (not separate (for sexes. Other nuisances.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act.</u> Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses Section 101. Other offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the sections mentioned in the schedule to the Ministry of Health). Factory and Workshop Transfer of Powers Order 1921).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL.	Nil.	Nil	Nil	Nil

Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7, and 8, of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901 as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3. Outwork in unwholesome premises, section 108. Nil.

